

Source Water Protection

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region

Stormwater Approvals Update – Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)

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Conservation Authority



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Outline

- Previous stormwater approvals landscape
- Stormwater approval landscape as of September 2025
- What is EASR? What are the impacts?
- Policy implications and recommendations

Streamlining environmental permissions for stormwater management under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry

ERO number	019-6928
Notice type	Regulation
Act	Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990
Posted by	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Notice stage	Decision
Decision posted	July 22, 2025
Comment period	August 31, 2023 - October 30, 2023 (60 days) Closed
Last updated	July 22, 2025

This consultation was open from:

**August 31, 2023
to October 30, 2023**



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Decision summary

The ministry is streamlining permissions for certain storm water management works by moving them to a registration-first approach or exempting them from a permission. These changes will allow important projects to begin faster while ensuring appropriate environmental protections are in place.

Types of Stormwater Works

Stormwater Management Facility

Stormwater Infiltration Facility

Types of Stormwater Approvals

**Consolidated Linear Infrastructure –
Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECA)**

Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)

Exempt from approvals/registration

S.36 Amendment – current policy approach for stormwater

- Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECAs) or Consolidated Linear Infrastructure – Environmental Compliance Approval (CLI-ECAs) for most Threats
 - Conditions
 - Permit expansion and retrofits where they would not be contributing to a significant drinking water threat
 - Operations, maintenance, and monitoring plans
 - Identify threat activity and drinking water system
 - Emergency response plan
- Risk Management Plans (RMPs) for low-risk facilities exempted from provincial approvals

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Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR)

Exempt from approvals/registration



What is EASR?

- Environmental Activity and Sector Registry
 - It is a self-registration system and is considered an 'approval'
 - For stormwater, only privately owned facilities can register and there are some exemptions
 - Must be signed off on by a Licensed Engineering Professional
 - There is no review before 'approval' and no posting the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO)
 - Registration will be publicly accessible through Access Environment
 - They can be audited after the fact

What projects are eligible?

Privately owned stormwater works servicing commercial, institutional, light industrial or multi-unit residential properties

Eligible Sites: Examples			
Residential Uses	Apartments	Townhomes	Group homes
	Boarding houses	Houses	Residential clubs
Commercial Uses	Banks	Libraries	Department stores
	Offices	Markets	Shops
	Television studios	Hair salons	Beauty parlors
	Stadiums	Restaurants	Movie theatres
	Museums	Hotels	Lodging houses
	Places of worship	Daycare facilities	Hospitals
	Schools	Universities	Colleges
Institutional Uses	Rehabilitation centers	Infirmaries	Nursing homes
	Police stations	Assisted living facilities	Prisons
	Cardlock facility	Auto service stations	Warehouses
	Workshops	Self-storage facilities	Gas stations
Light Industrial Uses			

What projects are ineligible?

- Processing, repair or maintenance of goods or materials is conducted outdoors
- Discharge from process water, cooling water, wash water, or sanitary sewage is collected or received by the stormwater works
- The stormwater facility services an activity such as heavy industrial sites, resource extraction sites, power generation facilities, golf courses and greenhouses, salt and snow storage areas, waste disposal sites, etc.



What is required for registration?

- Technical information on the design, operations and maintenance of the stormwater facility
- Spill contingency plans
- Assessment of if the activity would a significant drinking water threat, and how a threat would be managed if one exists
- The Ministry intends to provide standard guidance for all of these steps

Available policy options

- Prohibition of all stormwater facilities where there would be a significant drinking water threat and subject to any provincial 'approval'
- Monitoring policies requesting information from MECP about the number of threats and audits
- Non-legally binding policies asking that significant drinking water threat facilities be prioritized within the audit process
- The Committee cannot stack a risk management plan policy on top of an approval

Proposed policy changes

- **ADD:**

- MON-7: By February 1 of each year, MECP shall report to the local Source Protection Authority on the number of registrations to the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) that are considered Significant Drinking Water Threats, and how many registrations for Significant Drinking Water Threats were audited by Ministry Staff in the previous year.
- SEWG(a)-2: The MECP is encouraged to prioritize activities registered to the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry that are considered Significant Drinking Water Threats within their audit process.

- **REMOVE:**

- SEWG(a)-2: Where the Ontario Water Resources Act does not require an approval, existing and future stormwater infiltration facilities, where the activity would be a significant threat to drinking water, shall require a Risk Management Plan that includes appropriate terms and conditions to ensure that the activity ceases to be or does not become a significant drinking water threat.

Thank you

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